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Prevention of an arms race in outer space

International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

Letter dated 26 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the texts of the messages from the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir Putin (annex I), and the Speaker of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Mr. Gennady Seleznev (annex II), welcoming the participants in the International Conference on the Prevention of the Militarization of Outer Space held in Moscow from 11 to 14 April 2001.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 72 and 83.

(*Signed*) S. **Lavrov**

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Annex I to the letter dated 26 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Message from the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir Putin, welcoming the participants in the International Conference on the Prevention of the Militarization of Outer Space

(Moscow, 11-14 April 2001)

I welcome the participants in the International Conference on the Prevention of the Militarization of Outer Space.

Your representative forum has met on the threshold of an important date: the fortieth anniversary of the first manned space flight. That pioneering flight by Yuri Gagarin was an event of worldwide significance and a testimony to the power of the human mind.

All international experience in outer-space activities confirms the need for a careful and responsible approach to the exploration of outer space. We must work together to ensure that it remains peaceful, both for ourselves and for generations to come. I am convinced that there must be no weapons in outer space.

The overwhelming majority of States Members of the United Nations are now in favour of preventing an arms race in outer space. We must move on to practical steps to that end. The Russian Federation is ready as of now to begin preparing those steps. I call upon the other space Powers to associate themselves with this initiative.

Also of great importance in preventing an arms race in outer space will be to increase the extent to which the military outer-space resources of various States are used to promote the solution of social and economic problems by the world community.

I sincerely hope that the work of the participants in the conference will be fruitful, and I look forward to its making an important contribution to the common cause of space exploration in the interests of peace and international security. I wish you good health, happiness and prosperity.

Annex II to the letter dated 26 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Message from the Speaker of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Mr. Gennady Seleznev, welcoming the participants in the International Conference on the Prevention of the Militarization of Outer Space

(Moscow, 11-14 April 2001)

I welcome you on the occasion of the holding of the International Conference on the Prevention of the Militarization of Outer Space.

A comprehensive resolution of the issues relating to the prevention of an arms race in outer space affects the interests of all States without exception. There is thus a pressing need for the further development of the international legal basis for ensuring that the road towards militarization of outer space is closed. The attention of Russian parliamentarians is focused on this issue.

The utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes represents a serious step forward in solving the world's problems in the fields of economic, social and cultural development.

The high cost of space exploration is a difficult problem, even for economically powerful States. In this regard, the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation welcomes the conclusion of international bilateral and multilateral talks on cooperation in the field of outer space. The Russian Federation is open to broad international collaboration in space exploration — all the more so because it is a field in which we have proposals to make and achievements to be proud of.

I wish the participants in and guests at the conference great success in their important and responsible work in the interests of peace and worldwide security.